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**WASHINGTON TALK**

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# Briefing

## *Their Lips Are Sealed*

**I**t is no secret in Washington that the Government sometimes seems to drag its feet in releasing information. The Freedom of Information Act can be invoked by citizens and organizations in an effort to speed things up, but that does not always work. A case in point: on Oct. 2, 1979, The New York Times invoked the Information Act in requesting "files of the Central Intelligence Agency relating to the discovery of a cache of Cuban arms or arms purportedly smuggled by Cuba to Venezuela in November 1963." In a letter dated April 5 The Times got an answer, from John H. Wright, who coordinates freedom of information requests for the agency. Mr. Wright apologized for the delay, which he said had been caused by "administrative oversight" and a big backlog of other requests. The documents, he said, "are currently properly classified."

"Sanitization is not feasible," he said, "and they must be denied in their entirety."